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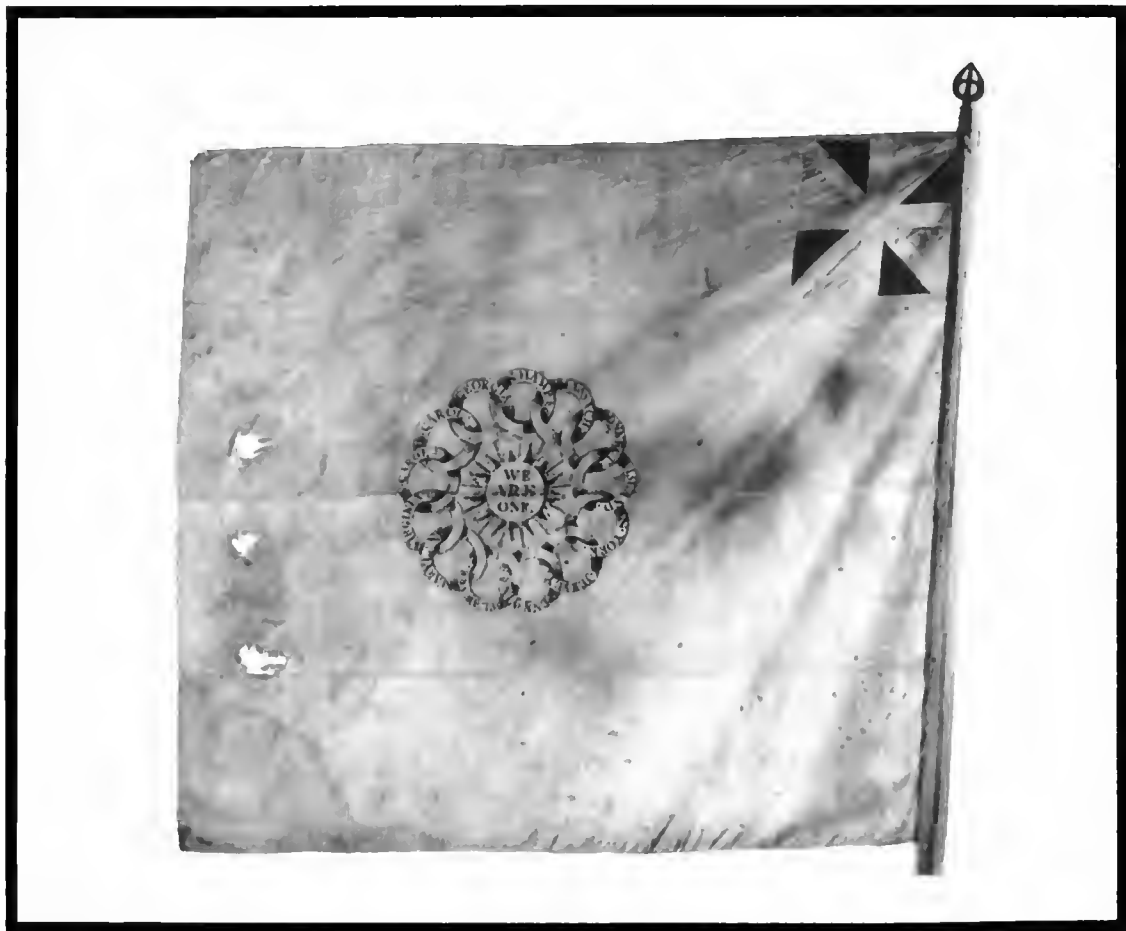
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

J. C. Spilman, Editor

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RF-63

THIRTEEN LINKED RINGS

on NEW HAMPSHIRE SECOND REGIMENTAL COLORS of 1777

Photograph courtesy New Hampshire Historical Society

Sequential page 687

Thirteen Linked Rings of Early American Unity.

(RF-63)

● ● Comment by ye Editor.

CNL Patron David P. McBride is scheduled to present in the November 1979 issue of The Numismatist the results of his study of the thirteen linked rings motif that first appeared on the reverse of the Continental Currency fractional notes of February 17, 1776. Early in the following year - 1777 - the same general design appeared on the Regimental Colors of the New Hampshire Second Regiment; colors which unfortunately were captured by the British during the American Revolution.

Central Design
Regimental Colors
New Hampshire
Second Regiment
1777



Photograph Courtesy
New Hampshire
Historical Society

The linked ring design proliferated thereafter in various adaptations to coinage, medals, buttons, documents and numerous chinaware patterns until, after some fifty years the design seemed to have faded in popularity.

McBride's interest in the linked rings design started during 1975 with his recognition of the similarities of the Continental Currency design with that of the New Hampshire Second Regimental Colors.

Originally planned for publication in CNL, the flag design numismatic study rapidly expanded in scope into non-numismatic areas and quickly outgrew the area of interest and publication capabilities of CNL. Accordingly, The Numismatist was selected for final publication.

We suggest that our Patrons make a special effort to read McBride's "Linked Rings" study in the November 1979 issue of The Numismatist. Patrons who care to comment or expand on his information in the article may do so through the pages of CNL.

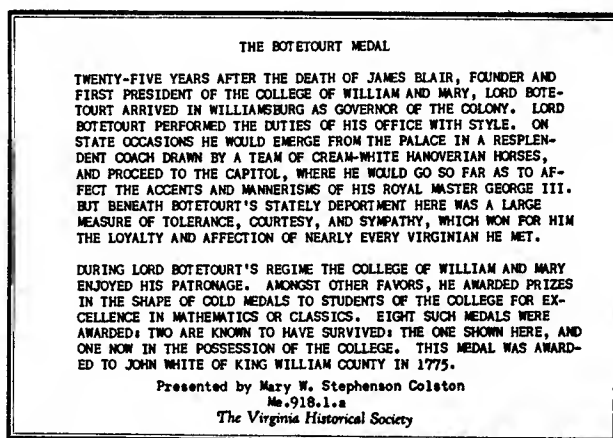
MORE DATA and REFERENCES for the BOTETOURT MEDAL

(RF-62B)

● ● from Raymond H. Williamson; Lynchburg, Virginia

- Inspection of the Medal. The article in The Colonial Newsletter (CNL) for October 1978 pp 653-661 on "The First Collegiate Medal Issued in America -- 1772" pictures this very rare gold medal, courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society of Richmond, and partly describes it. A couple of corrections to this article are now noted. Most important: for the medal picture on p 653, the enlargement scale is 2:1 or 2X (not 1.5X). Also, in line 1 of p 655, read "Some seventeen years later ..." (not "seven years"), for the second appearance of the Botetourt medal story in the American Journal of Numismatics (AJN); 1878 to 1895.

After publication in CNL, a few unresolved questions remained, some of which could be answered by actual observation of the medal. So on August 16 of this year I traveled to Richmond for an arranged inspection of the medal in the library of the Virginia Historical Society, where every courtesy was extended to me by the Librarian, Mr. Howard W. Cole, and others. The medal is normally displayed inside a holder, the descriptive card for which is reproduced here as an excellent sampling of the colonial "climate" at the time the eight medals were awarded:



I carefully measured the diameter of the medal at 43.0 mm. This dimension was later verified by measurements on the dies at Williamsburg. Unfortunately no suitable scale was available to weigh it, but the best possible observation on a two-pound postal spring scale was 1.8 ounces avoirdupois or 51 grams \pm about 5 grams, which is about 1.5 times the weight of a U.S. \$20 gold piece. A more accurate weight measurement is desirable -- perhaps on the specimen at Williamsburg.

The edge of the Botetourt medal is plain, and does not have the smooth square-edged appearance of having been struck in a close collar. Yet I have concluded that it probably was struck in such a collar. A dozen measurements of diameter indicated no tendency toward a slightly oval shape; most coins or medals struck without a close collar are slightly oval -- such as most early U.S. coins. Moreover, the rims on both

obverse and reverse of the Botetourt medal are very well raised, so that the gold planchet must either have passed through a Castaing machine to upset the rims, or else it must have been struck in a close collar. Both alternatives seem unlikely this early if the medal were struck in America, especially unlikely in plantation-oriented Virginia. In addition, there are no indented serifs or outward-stretched letters in the border legend, as is commonly the case with a coin or medal struck without a close collar. Hence I speculate that a close collar was used (although it has not survived with the dies), and that the lack of a squared edge is due to honest wear of a soft metal; further, I believe that the eight medals awarded were struck in England, with the plan to use the dies in Virginia when they ran out of medals.

- Comments on Description. A few comments are in order on the description of the Botetourt medal as given in 1895 by William T.R. Marvin, AJN editor, and copied complete on CNL page 656. First, I must disagree with his naming the "heads" (George III) side the reverse, and go along with Leonard Forrer in his Biographic Dictionary of Medallists, Vol IV p 557 (duplicated July 1979 on CNL p 680) and call the "heads" side the obverse. This medal was struck with the dies positioned "medal reverse" -- that is, obverse and reverse same side up ↑↑, opposite to current U.S. coins, which are ↑↓.

The image of George III seems to have been done with a head punch, hubbed into the medal die, and to have been very professionally and painstakingly executed -- doubtless to meet the requirement for royal approval, even for this colonial medal. I have an uneasy feeling that I've seen this exact head before on some English medal or coin of the period. Unfortunately, there is no known way to check out this hunch by a literature search in an organized way, as there would be before 1760 in "Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain & Ireland to the Death of George II" by Edward Hawkins et al (1885), plus available English coin books. However, a disorganized search was made of at least 100 English medal and coin pictures of George III pre-1772 (presumably made from a much lesser number of head punches); nothing similar to the head on the Botetourt medal was found. To begin with, editor Marvin correctly describes this head as "a naked bust of George III in profile to the right, with long flowing hair." However, every one of the 100 or more George III busts observed shows the head laureate, whereas the Botetourt medal shows him bareheaded, and I doubt the laurel leaves could be removed by retouching the medal die. By the way, all George III busts observed face the right; none of the medal designers broke with the English tradition that "a new sovereign's head shall face in the opposite direction to that of his or her predecessor." (See Peter Seaby's "The Story of the English Coinage: pp 104-105, published 1952).

The translation of the Latin inscriptions appears to have been adequately made by AJN editor Marvin, although it seems odd that the abbreviated Latin (?) words BLARO CHART. COL. would have been used in the first place for CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE TO BLAIR.

- Additional References. The CNL article on this medal (October 1978) ends with the statement: "No additional references have been located." As one might expect, some more references have surfaced. Particularly apropos and welcome are those cited by Richard Margolis in CNL for July 1979 p 680; he once acquired a copper specimen of the Botetourt medal in London and missed another at a Sotheby sale there in 1976. Importantly, he found the medal attributed to Thomas Pingo (rather than to "McCartney & Bayley") by two British numismatic authorities: Leonard Forrer and M.H. Grant. Margolis makes the proposal that McCartney & Bayley (whose names appear on each of the Botetourt dies) were London agents to secure the dies or the medals or both for use in Virginia. Forrer identifies Thomas Pingo (ca 1692-1776) as an Italian medallist and engraver who came to England ca. 1743; he sired several children including medallist sons Lewis and John Pingo. Thomas Pingo is described as a Portuguese by Sir John Craig, who seldom errs. (See his "The Mint" published 1953 p 233).

The writer has located and photocopied some additional references outside the numismatic literature that are cited below for more completeness of the study. These references are of only peripheral numismatic significance -- and so are not duplicated in extenso here.

- Printed handbill of March 20, 1770 in Tucker-Coleman Papers at Swem Library, College of William & Mary; photostat at Colonial Williamsburg. This item is copied and indexed in typescript in "Historical Notes: The College of William and Mary" by Mary R. M. Goodwin. The text of this 1770 handbill on page 196 of the Goodwin Notes states the ground rules for the selection of recipients of the gold Botetourt medals, thus publicly disclosing the rules seven months before the untimely death of Lord Botetourt and over two years before the first medals were awarded on July 29, 1772.
- William and Mary Quarterly (W&MQ), Series 1, Vol III p 144 (October 1894). "The Botetourt Medals". *
- W&MQ, Series 1, Vol III pp 207-208 (January 1895). "Historical and Genealogical Notes -- Botetourt Medal," by the editor. *
- W&MQ, Series 1, Vol III pp 270-271 (April 1895). Item 28 re the award to Samuel Shield, includes an engraving of both the obverse and reverse of the medal: believed to be pictured for the first time. *

* This item was mentioned with incomplete citation in quoted material, and contents were summarized in CNL October 1978 pp 655-656, duplicating AJN Vol 30 pp 17-19.

- W&MQ, Series 1, Vol IV pp 263-264 (January 1896). "The First Collegiate Medals." A long letter of October 8, 1895 from AJN editor William T.R. Marvin of Boston to the President of William and Mary College and W&MQ editor Lyon G. Tyler is quoted, asking for data on the dies from which the medals were struck. The October 1895 reply of Tyler was published in AJN Vol 30 pp 51-53 October 1895 and duplicated in CNL October 1978 pp 657-658. Also on CNL p 658 is duplicated an undated extract from Tyler to Marvin re the dies; Tyler's statements regarding die dimensions are identical to his words in the present reference (W&MQ, Vol IV p 263 January 1896), but are in error.
- Virginia Historical Magazine Vol 27 pp xi-xii (April 3, 1919). Proceedings, "Gifts and Bequests," item 7. Describes the aquisition of John White's gold Botetourt medal by the Virginia Historical Society in 1918. This item is already summarized in CNL October 1978 p 659 by the duplicated article on "John White's Botetourt Medal" by Dr. John J. Jennings, from the Virginia Historical Society's An Occasional Bulletin, April 1978.
- Tyler's Quarterly Magazine Vol 3 No. 2 pp 106-109 (1921). "Correspondance Relating to Lord Botetourt." The financing of these gold medals by Lord Botetourt (1718-1770) is described as an example of his munificence and his popularity with Virginians during his all-too-brief governorship, 1768-1770. Incidentally, Lord Botetourt's name is remembered today as the name of a Virginia county in the Blue Ridge country -- and it is still correctly pronounced Bŏt'ē tŏt.



The DIES for the BOTETOIRT MEDAL

(RF-62C)

● ● from Raymond H. Williamson; Lynchburg, Virginia

In the October 1978 issue of CNL pp 653-658 there appeared the story of the gold Botetourt Medal, plus a few tantalizing details about the dies from which they were struck (RF-62). In The American Journal of Numismatics (AJN) Vol 30 p 114 (April 1896) and reproduced in the above CNL article, AJN editor William T.R. Marvin commented on and quoted a letter to him from Lyon G. Tyler (President of William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia and son of John Tyler, U. S. President 1840-1844):

"... (Lyon G. Tyler) has now informed us that he has lately (1896) examined the original dies, which are in a good state of preservation. He (Tyler) writes: 'They have a steel disc, one and three-fourths inches in diameter, let in an iron octagon, each of whose faces is two inches by one and three-fourths inches. Each die weighs two pounds avoirdupois. On one of the faces I contrived, after a good deal of cleaning, to ascertain the names of the makers, [Mc] Cartney and Bayley.' I have enclosed the first two letters in brackets, as my reading is somewhat conjectural as to them, owing to the rust. The other letters are plain enough. ' "

Tyler had already published this die description a few months earlier in the William and Mary Quarterly (W&MQ) as editor and owner of this publication; see W&MQ Series 1, Vol IV pp 263-264 (January 1896). A more recent reference to these medal dies is an item in the April 1978 An Occasional Bulletin of the Virginia Historical Society: "John White's Botetourt Medal" by Dr. John Melville Jennings; this item also was reproduced in the October 1978 CNL article cited above. Dr. Jennings stated in part (April 1978):

"Miraculously enough, in view of the tragic losses of records sustained by (William & Mary) College in later years, the original dies, ... are still in the possession of the college ..."

In the United States, we seem to have destroyed nearly all eighteenth century dies for medals and coins, made either here or abroad. This is in sharp contrast to the practice of retention in the European countries such as England, France, Spain and Italy. See for example "Colloquium on Dies," in Seaby Coin & Medal Bulletin September 1978 p 279. This third annual conference sponsored by the Royal Mint at London, was held July 5, 1978. Participants studied the Royal Mint's collection of dies covering over 300 years. The very few early dies which have survived in the U.S. should be of considerable educational value to numismatists. So I had to see the Botetourt dies of the 1770's and, if possible arrange to borrow them briefly for professional numismatic photography.

Accordingly, last February 5, I visited for a few hours at the College Archives at the Swem Library of the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia -- a round trip of about 320 miles. This visit was in accordance with prior arrangement

with the College Archivist, Ms. Kay J. Domine. I was received most cordially and shown every courtesy with respect to the examination and measurement of the old dies, and also the location of pertinent non-numismatic library material concerning them. But as to the loan of the dies for outside photography, "No way;"

if such unique artifacts were taken outside their control, anything could happen. This position I wholeheartedly respect, since such security rules undoubtedly account for the long-term survival of these dies and the loss of most others in the U.S. of similar vintage. (Do you, reader, know of any other die now in the United States which was used for striking medals or coins of the American Colonial period?)

And so to the dies. They weighed in -- courtesy of the Chemistry Department -- at 1115 grams for the obverse die and 1196 grams for the reverse. This is close to the "two pounds 10 ounces avoirdupois" (1190 grams) for each die measured by Tyler in 1896.

Surprisingly, a very old paper label remains glued to the back of the reverse die. (The obverse die bears the "head" of George III). The following words were still decipherable, written in old-style handwriting in which the manuscript letter "s" looks somewhat like a modern script "f":

"Dies of First Collegiate Prize Medal ordered by Norbor [ne] _____
Botet [ourt] ."

Bracketed letters are here supplied; the name probably would have been written "Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt." There are traces of a former similar label on the back of the obverse die, apparently long gone.

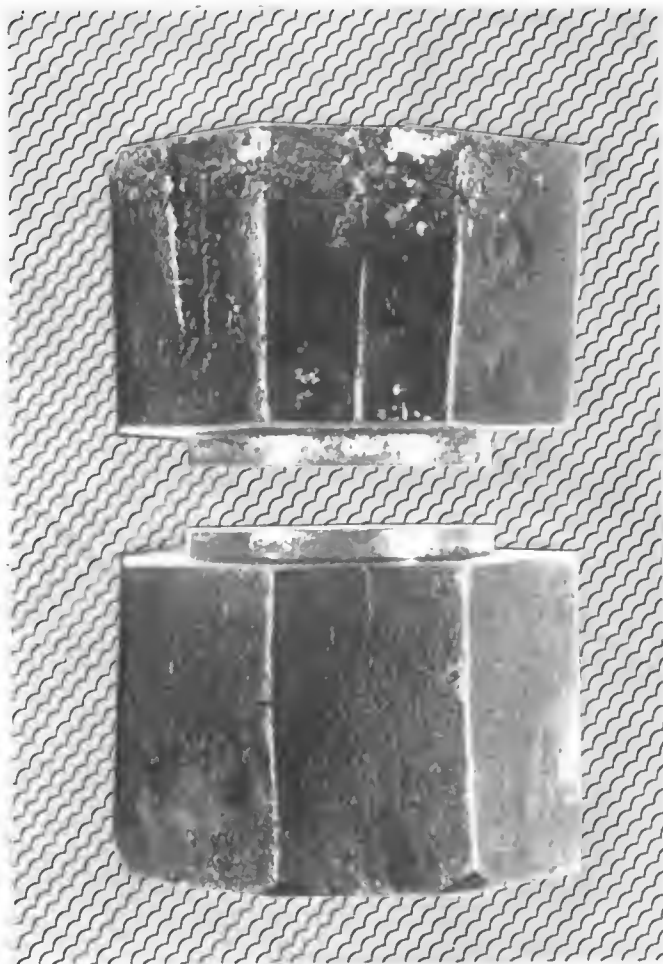
An examination of the dies clearly reveals that each die consists of two pieces of metal; a steel slightly tapered cylinder, carrying the engraved face, which is the die proper; it has been shrunk-fit into an octagonal iron die holder, also slightly tapered. This description confirms the words of Lyon G. Tyler (1896): "A steel disc let in an iron octagon . . ." These dies are actually working dies, not hubs or puncheons. All metal images are complete on the dies; types are reversed and legends incuse.

Both dies were photographed by the Audio-Visual Department of the College; see Figure 1 on page 695 and Figure 2 on page 696. Approval for their publication in CNL was graciously given by Mr. Clifford Currie, Librarian of the Earl Gregg Swem Library.

The reason that the dies appear very dark in the reproductions is that they actually are very dark; however, the original photographic prints received from the College have been rephotographed by CNL and reprinted to enhance the contrast and generally lighten the overall appearance. In addition, in Figure 1 the dies which were originally photographed side by side have been repositioned one above the other in positions they would occupy in a coinage press, and -- a line background has been added to enhance the appearance of the edges of each die.

Obverse Die

Reverse Die



Scale 1:1

FIGURE 1 -- THE DIES FOR THE BOTETOURT MEDAL -- SIDE VIEW

In the side view, Figure 1, the reverse die is seen to be slightly higher -- and hence is slightly heavier. When the dies were installed face-to-face in the coining press, the upper die was rotated by the person who adjusted the dies so that its vertical alignment mark on one face of the octagonal iron die holder directly lined up with a similar vertical mark on the lower die holder. These alignment lines may be seen in Figure 1. Such positioning of the die holders assured that the resulting medal would be struck with "medal reverse" (obverse and reverse with same sides up ↑↑) as in modern British and Canadian coinages, rather than "coin reverse" (obverse and reverse with opposite sides up ↑↓) as in modern U.S. coinage. These names for the two types of die positioning are discussed by Tom Delorey in his "Collectors' Clearing House" in Coin World for June 8, 1977 p 54.



Obverse die

Reverse die

FIGURE 2 -- DIE FACES

Scale 1:1

In the sketches and description which follow, I have assumed that the obverse die (head of George III) is the movable upper one. While this arrangement cannot be proven, and the opposite may as well have been the case, it is necessary to make some such an assumption before describing the dies and making a diagram (see Figure 3). I believe that, at this time in history, since the movable upper die would have a substantially shorter life than the firmly supported lower die, the person who installed the dies would place that die in the upper position for which it would be easiest to produce a replacement when it cracked badly or broke. Although wear would have little significance for a die destined to strike only a few medals, I chose the obverse die of this pair as easiest to produce a replacement, and show it as the upper one in the diagrams, Figure 3 and Figure 4.

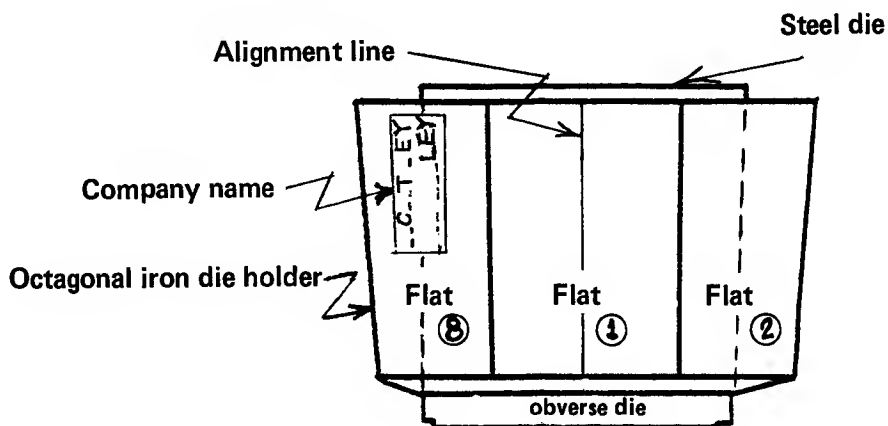
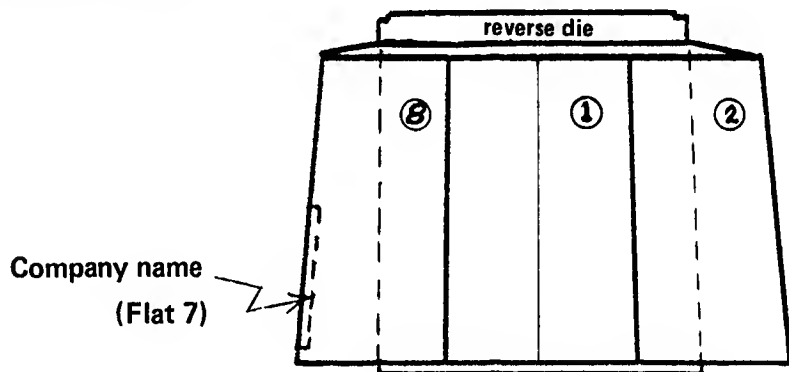


FIGURE 3 -- DIE ARRANGEMENT



In Figure 3, the dies are shown arranged face-to-face, obverse die on top, ready to strike a planchet into a medal. The top die has been rotated so that its vertical alignment mark is directly above the similar mark on the lower die, as discussed above. The flat approximately vertical faces of the octagonal die holders have been arbitrarily numbered 1 through 8 (not on the actual dies) so that the locations of the heavily struck, deeply imbedded logos of the company name can be visualized. The logo appears on flat 8 of the obverse die and flat 7 of the reverse die, for no particular reason. Already in 1896, sufficient rusting had occurred to make the "Mc" of the company name McCARTNEY AND BAYLEY conjectural.

Today we can make out on the obverse die holder:

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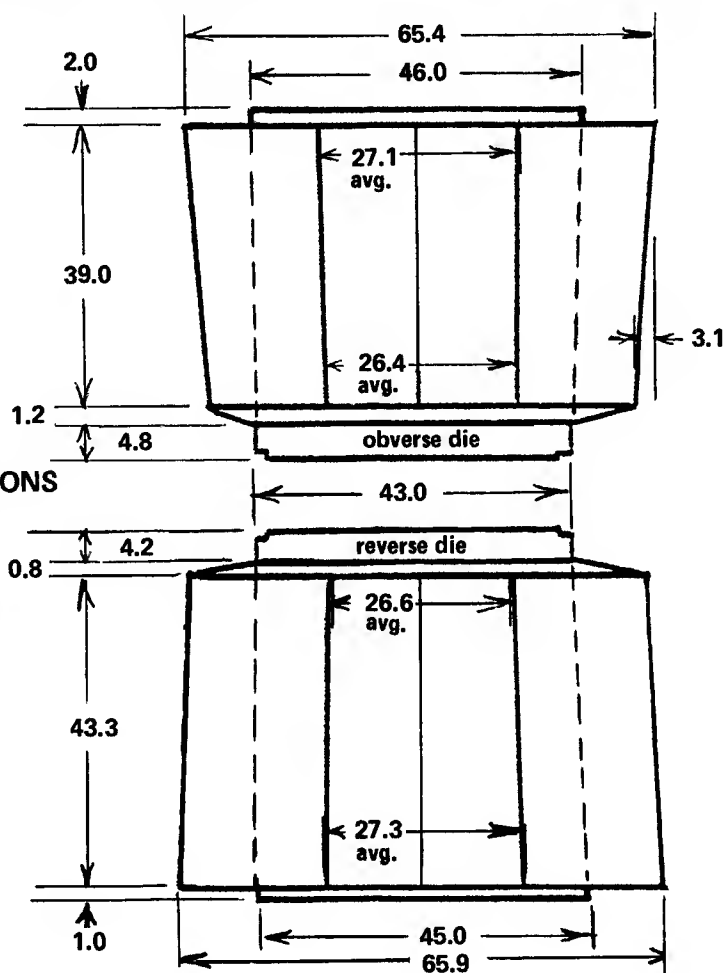
--C--T-EY
---  ---LEY
  
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And on the reverse die holder:

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M--ARTNEY
AND BAYLEY
  
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FIGURE 4 -- DIE DIMENSIONS



All dimensions in millimeters

This company name remains an enigma, since no English medalists of this name have been found and (more importantly) I had learned that medalist Thomas Pingo in England made the dies, per Leonard Forrer's "Biographical Dictionary of Medallists" Vol IV p 557, cited by Richard Margolis in CNL for July 1979 p 680. (Archives personnel were encouraged to apply some type of non-reactive grease and to maintain it on the surfaces of these dies and die holders to inhibit further deterioration. The extent of rusting on the critical striking surfaces of the steel dies can be seen in Figure 2).

The Die Dimension sketch, Figure 4, is included to permit possible future comparison with other dies of similar vintage -- perhaps dies retained in England -- and to encourage study of the whys and wherefores of eighteenth century die manufacture. The steel dies for the Botetourt medal have been accurately turned and tapered on a lathe, while the dimensions of the eight flats of the octagonal die holder are quite variable -- clearly blacksmith's tolerances. This variability necessitated the use of some "average" dimensions in Figure 4.

The measurements shown in Figure 4 were made with care -- and they do not agree well at all with those reported by Lyon G. Tyler to AJN editor William T.R. Marvin in 1896, which must have been "eyeballed" only. (See CNL p 658, Oct. 1978).

Reconciliation of the two sets of dimensions is impossible and comparisons are futile. However, the mixup did motivate a second pleasant visit to the William and Mary College Archives on August 17 of this year, to verify previous measurements and to be absolutely certain that these are the dies which struck the medal at the Virginia Historical Society. They are. On this trip, I acknowledge the cooperation of Ms. Mary Colin Hyder, who also arranged for an additional photograph of the dies.

A very important consideration shown in Figures 3 and 4 is the "sharp shoulder" of the steel die adjacent to each striking surface. This "sharp shoulder" die design permits the die to enter a suitably dimensioned "close collar", and to eject a medal therefrom after striking. (At this early date, such "ejection" probably was done manually). Such dies could be used either with or without a close collar, but they show that then-current English practice permitted the use of a close collar for medals. I've been unable to learn at what date this innovation was first used in England, but believe it was not many years before 1772. However an earlier die of George II having this "sharp shoulder" is pictured in John W. Grainger's article "Vast Die Collection -- Tower Mint Still Holds Numismatic Treasure" in Coin World for November 8, 1977 p 66-67; the die is for a pattern or proof crown piece. By contrast, all dies then used for regular coinage had "beveled shoulders" the faces of which could not enter close collars, and hence coins struck with regular coinage dies were without benefit of close collars. It seems probable that the benefits of using a close collar in terms of attractive coinage were delayed for decades because the necessary "die neck" resulting from the "sharp shoulder" so that coinage dies could be used with a close collar, also resulted in a die not as strong against cracks and breakage as if it were beveled. Also, I expect that in these early days, medals and medallic-struck coins (proofs and patterns) had to be forcefully removed by hand from the close collar, one by one -- a great deterrent to quantity production, although it didn't matter much for medals, proofs and patterns.

There is definite proof that, at some time in the long life of the Botetourt dies, presumably before they left England, they were actually used to strike medals in a close collar. This proof is the survival of a couple of thin loose shreds of (apparently) silver which still cling to the neck of the obverse die, adjacent to the striking surface; these shreds would have been "wire edges" or (English) "knife rims" if they had adhered to the struck medals. So then, in addition to the two gold specimens and the two copper specimens reported by Richard Margolis (CNL July 1979 p 680), I fully expect some silver specimens to surface one of these days!

These Botetourt dies seem to have been near enough "state of the art" for 1772 to believe that Thomas Pingo might well have made them in the Royal Mint, London. After all, he was the Second Engraver there 1771-1776; his son Lewis Pingo was already an apprentice in the mint, and became Chief Engraver 1780-1815. (See Sir John Craig's "The Mint" pp 233, 260; L. Forrer's "Biographical Dictionary of Medallists" Vol IV p 555). The English engravers in the Royal Mint traditionally

and openly did much private medal work at the mint, for both private and official Customers. (Craig p 281). Before the untimely death of Virginia's Royal Governor, Lord Botetourt in 1770, he had already been in negotiation with the English Secretary of State for the American Colonies, Lord Hillsborough, at London, for the creation of dies at the Royal Mint to produce the Virginia halfpennies of 1773 there. (See Eric Newman's "Coinage for Colonial Virginia" in ANS NNM 135 (1956) pp 13, 14, 49). What could have been more natural than for Lord Botetourt to secure dies for his scholastic medal at the Royal Mint also?

Required reading for any specialist in the U.S. Colonial field who wants to bone up on the nature of dies, collars, hubs, puncheons, etc. being used near the end of the colonial period must read Walter Breen's "Dies and Coinage" (1962), which remains a blockbuster in this field. Excellent by-product coverage of this subject matter is also to be found in his "Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977" (1977), and in Bob Julian's "Medals of the United States Mint -- The First Century, 1792-1892" (1977). "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar" (1962) by Eric Newman and Kenneth Bressett yields the close-collar detective story of the century. Close-collar business striking of English coins at the Royal Mint was delayed until the new Boulton presses went into operation there in 1810; such operation at the U.S. Mint did not begin until the 1828-1836 period, although undoubtedly used somewhat earlier for mint medals, proofs and patterns. But Virginia had a set of "sharp shoulder" dies for such work in 1772. It makes one wonder on what coining press they might have been used here if the Revolutionary War hadn't intervened.



● Editor's note:

Ray Williamson's question on page 694 is extremely important: "Do you, reader, know of any other die now in the United States which was used for striking medals or coins of the American Colonial period?" To expand on his question -- specifically, do any of our Patrons know of the existence of any die used for the Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, "Machin's" or Federal Fugio coinages? The opportunity to study such dies would be of tremendous help to those of us interested in the die making techniques used in 18th Century America!



VERMONT Ryder 3 STRUCK OVER 1785 CONNECTICUT African Head (TN-87)

● ● from William T. Anton, Jr.; Lodi, New Jersey



The photograph at the left is an especially interesting overstrike of a 1785 Vermont Ryder 3 (Bressett 2-B) over a 1785 Connecticut 4.1-F.4 -- one of the "African Heads".

The significance of this discovery lies in the fact that the Connecticut "African Heads" of 1785, varieties 4.1-F.4, 4.2-F.6 and 6.5-M, are stylistically different in obverse design from all other Connecticut varieties. A fact that leaves their relationship with other Connecticut varieties in question both as to origin and actual date of manufacture.



So far as we know today, there is no reason to suspect that the 1785 Vermont Ryder 3 specimens were struck at any other time than the 1785 era. Accordingly, the use of a 1785 "African Head" planchet with Ryder 3 dies makes a strong case for stating that the 1785 "African Head" specimens were, in fact, manufactured and distributed in the year 1785, and not manufactured at some later time.

The photographs are enlarged approximately 2.5X in order to make as much detail as possible visible in the final print. It is always difficult to obtain a good photograph of an undertype and this one was no exception especially since the specimen exhibited considerable wear.

A great deal of overstriking took place during 1787 and 1788 but the appearance of a 1785 Vermont struck over a 1785 Connecticut is, we believe, a bit unusual. Data from our Patrons regarding similar early date overstrikes will be appreciated.